

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJ: UN BUDGET - GENERAL SERVICE STAFF CHILDREN'S
ALLOWANCE - NEW YORK

REF: STATE 96252

1. ACCORDING TO OUR UNDERSTANDING, DECISION TO INCREASE CHILDREN'S ALLOWANCE FOR UN GENERAL SERVICE STAFF WAS NOT BASED ON COMPARABLE BENEFITS WHICH ACCRUE TO US CITIZENS UNDER US TAX LAWS. SYSTEM OF STRICT EQUIVALENCE WITH THESE TAX BENEFITS WOULD HAVE PRODUCED ONLY NEGLIGIBLE INCREASE IN CHILDREN'S ALLOWANCE. STAFF REPRESENTATIVES HAD ARGUED AGAINST SUCH EQUIVALENCE AND POINTED OUT THAT \$250 RATE ESTABLISHED IN 1957 HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN TAX BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS OF NEW YORK AT THAT TIME. INSTEAD STAFF ARGUED FOR "RESTORATION OF PURCHASING POWER". SYG FINALLY AGREED TO SAME ABSOLUTE INCREASE (\$150) THAT HAD BEEN GRANTED PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY BY DECISION OF 29TH UNGA. THIS LEAVES \$50 MARGIN BETWEEN TWO RATES AS HAD PREVAILED PREVIOUSLY. STAFF CONTINUES TO ARGUE THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO DIFFERENCE IN CHILDREN'S ALLOWANCE FOR PROFESSIONAL AND GENERAL SERVICE STAFF AT HEADQUARTERS SINCE THEY CONSIDERED DISTINCTION "INEQUITABLE".

2. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE DEPARTMENT'S REASONING CONTAINED REFTTEL IS SOUND, BUT WE SERIOUSLY DOUBT IF WE WOULD HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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SLIGHTEST CHANCE OF REVERSING SYG'S DECISION TO GRANT

\$400 GENERAL SERVICE STAFF CHILDREN'S ALLOWANCE. INDEED, STAFF IS THREATENING JOB ACTION TO OBTAIN FULL \$450 ALLOWANCE. CASE, HOWEVER, MIGHT BE MADE FOR CRITICISM OF SAME ABSOLUTE INCREASE OF \$150 BETWEEN PROFESSIONAL AND GENERAL SERVICE CATEGORIES WITH ARGUMENT THAT INCREASE IN GENERAL SERVICE ALLOWANCE WAS A HIGHER PERCENTAGE INCREASE THAN THAT GRANTED BY UNGA TO PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY.

3. RE JOB ACTION, WE HAVE NOW BEEN ADVISED THAT STAFF COUNCIL IS CONVENING GENERAL MEETING OF STAFF UNION FRIDAY, MAY 2 WHICH WILL RESULT IN HALF DAY WORK STOPPAGE. SCALI

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